

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Setting dates for chronically low-performing school districts to report to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070(1)

Action Question:

With what frequency should chronically low-performing school districts (Christian County, Covington Independent and Jefferson County) report to the KBE on their progress?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Over the last several years school districts in Kentucky have been held accountable for progress through the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Both of these accountability systems include consequences for schools and districts not making expected progress.

Three school districts (Christian County, Covington Independent and Jefferson County) have schools that have failed to meet specific requirements under CATS and NCLB. These districts were asked to report to the KBE to share their plans for meeting goals. Because of its failure to implement previous corrective action plans, Christian County has reported to the KBE on their efforts to meet Adequate Yearly Progress.

KRS 156.070(1) states that the KBE “shall have the management and control of the common schools and all programs in these schools...” It is this authority that allows the board to request accountability reports from school districts that are not meeting the requirements for meeting proficiency.

KDE staff are regularly monitoring all districts identified to receive support as recommended by the Commissioner’s Blue Ribbon Panel Report: The Improvement Imperative. Monitoring includes monthly reports, on-site visits and regular data reviews. This monitoring process may generate future recommendations for additional districts to report to the KBE.

Policy Issue(s) and Options:

The options on frequency of reports to the KBE are:

- 1) Set the same dates for each district.
- 2) Set dates based upon each district’s specific need.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

KDE staff recommends that Jefferson County and Christian County make bi-annual reports to the KBE. The first report would occur after the close of the 08-09 school year, at the June 2009 KBE meeting. The second report would occur following the release of assessment data at the October 2009 meeting.

KDE staff recommends that Covington Independent make quarterly reports to the Kentucky Board of Education. The first report would occur at the February 2009 KBE meeting. Subsequent reports would be given at the June 2009 and the October 2009 meetings.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The local district superintendents and boards of education of Christian County, Covington Independent and Jefferson County School Districts have the authority and responsibility to ensure their improvement plans include actions to assist and strengthen low-performing schools and that those actions are fully implemented, monitored, and adjusted to meet the needs of all students. An added level of accountability is given when the KBE asks districts to regularly report in a public forum on their progress.

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